

*All violence, all that is dreary
and repels, is not power, but
the absence of power.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

What Is Domestic Violence?

The term domestic violence includes a variety of abusive behaviors or threats of abuse. These examples describe some of the ways a person can be abused. Not all domestic violence is a criminal act.

- ♦ **Physical:** shoving, slapping, hitting, punching, kicking, choking, shaking, using weapons or objects that can cause harm, and restraining or threatening to harm you, your child, relative, friend or pet.
- ♦ **Sexual:** forcing, causing injury, acting violently or physically harming you during a sexual relationship.
- ♦ **Psychological:** an ongoing pattern of name calling, ridiculing, criticizing, manipulating, threatening, intimidating, accusing you of having an affair, or controlling your actions or interactions with friends and family over time.

*Suzanne welcomes your comments or
questions for upcoming newsletters.*

This project was supported by Grant No. 2004-WR-AX-0015 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.



Safe Passage Grant
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Safe Passage

NEWSLETTER

Greetings!

This bi-monthly newsletter is created to start a discussion about domestic violence and provide information for victims and their loved ones. It is important for victims of abuse to know that they are not alone and there is help available close to home.



It is true that one in three women in the U.S. are affected by domestic violence, no matter what the social, economic or religious background. Unfortunately, this statistic applies to all communities in Utah and Arizona.

The newsletter is sponsored by the Safe Passage grant, which offers free help to victims and their children who live in plural families throughout Utah and Arizona. These federal grants are given throughout the country to other underserved populations in rural areas. The Safe Passage grant is not operating on the premise that there is more domestic violence in polygamous communities, but that victims from these communities face more barriers in getting help.

This newsletter will be the first of what we hope will be many opportunities to provide information to help prevent domestic violence in your community. Please join us in this effort.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Chavira, Safe Passage Grant Coordinator

Resources

The Safe Passage Grant provides the following resources for victims of domestic violence from plural families and their children. There are no other requirements to qualify for assistance, services are free and information is kept strictly confidential.

◆ Housing Assistance

Money is available for transitional housing.

◆ Legal Representation

Free legal help is available for divorce and custody issues.

◆ Transportation

Shelters and law enforcement can be reimbursed for transporting victims for services. Victims can also get bus passes.

◆ Emergency Housing & Food

Victims may be able to stay at a hotel and get groceries if they are not able to stay at a shelter because of safety or space issues.

◆ Utah Domestic Violence Information Line

The grant expanded the Domestic Violence Linkline to a 24-hour service (800) 897-LINK.

◆ Victim Advocate & Case Manager

Both positions assist victims in finding housing, employment, education, counseling resources and legal help.

◆ Shelter Security

The grant provides additional security at the DOVE Center in St. George.

◆ Washington County Sheriff

A Deputy patrols the Hildale area to provide additional public safety. Contact by Cell: (435) 467-1271

Partners

The Utah Domestic Violence Information Line, a program of the Utah Domestic Violence Council, is a toll-free, anonymous and confidential phone service that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The phone service is committed to linking victims of domestic violence with information and/or resources within their area.



Information staff members have received training from polygamists and former polygamists in order to make sure victims feel comfortable seeking help. They are dedicated to linking individuals with counseling, shelters, safe houses, support groups, police, mental, health services, human service agencies, legal services, victims assistance groups and more.

Safe Passage Contacts

- ◆ Utah Domestic Violence Information Line
(800) 897-LINK (5465)
- ◆ Safe Talk Helpline (National D.V. Hotline)
(866) 9-SAFE-99 or (866) 972-3399
- ◆ Safe Passage Grant Coordinator
Suzanne Chavira, DCFS
(435) 652-2953,
mail to: schavira@utah.gov
377-A E. Riverside Drive,
St. George, UT 84790

Upcoming Events

◆ Women's Support Group

Women from polygamous communities meet once a week in Southern Utah.

Contact Suzanne Chavira, (435) 652-2953

Women from polygamous communities are also meeting in the Salt Lake City area on a regular basis.

Contact Pat Merkley, (801) 537- 8622

◆ Nurturing Families Program

The Dove Center is offering a parenting class for all families. The program helps build strong families by emphasizing respect, empathy and cooperation.

Contact Lynda Whitlock (435) 628-1204

◆ Safety Net Meetings

The Safety Net Committee is comprised of representatives from government agencies, non-profit groups and polygamous communities.

They meet monthly to ensure plural families have equal access to justice, safety and services. See meeting times below:

- January 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m. - noon
Mohave County College, Colorado City
- February 3, 2006, 10:00 a.m. - noon
DCFS, 277-B East Riverside Drive, St. George
- March 1, 2006, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Human Services Bldg., 120 N. 200 W., SLC

